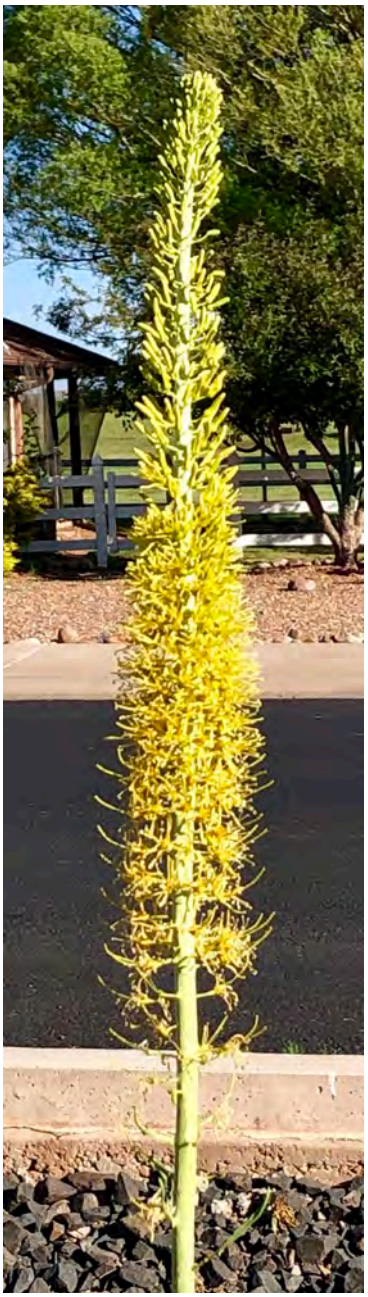
Hunt Manor
Snowflake, Arizona

Yucca Gardens

Stanleya elata

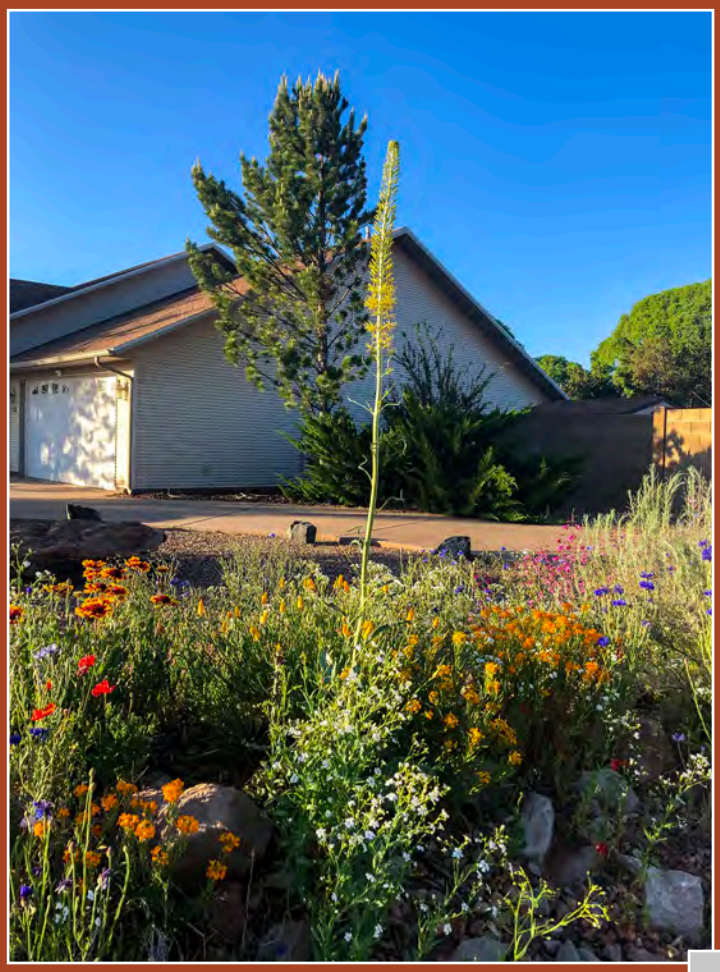


***Stanleya elata** is a species of flowering plant in the mustard family known by the common name Panamint princes plume. It is native to the desert mountains of eastern California and western Nevada, where it grows in rocky and scrubby habitat types. It is a perennial herb producing one or more erect stems reaching about 1.5 meters in maximum height. They are hairless and often waxy in texture. The thick, leathery leaves have lance-shaped or oblong blades with smooth or toothed edges measuring up to 15 centimeters long. They are borne on petioles. The top of the stem is occupied by a long inflorescence which is a dense, snaking raceme of many flowers. Each flower has four narrow, threadlike yellow or whitish petals each about a centimeter long and a millimeter wide. The fruit is a long, thin, wormlike silique which may be 10 centimeters in length containing tiny seeds. (Wikipedia)*

Last summer my brother Jay sent me pictures of a plant from a trip he'd taken near Las Vegas Nevada. I was quite impressed....it looked all the world to be a plant that frequesntly grows around northern Arizona and southern Utah (possibly other locations in the west)... but this one seemed to be on steriods... by the standards of its shorter cousin, ***stanleya pinnata*** or princes plume it was its big brother. Naturally, I was anxious to get some seeds or small transplants. Late that summer he brought me back a few young plants and seeds. The young plants sadly faded into oblvion but, concurrently I'd scattered its seeds along the rocky top of two locations, hoping for the best. Not seeing any result by the end of the year I was resigned to having him possibly get me more seed and be a bit less cavalier with their disbursement. However, this spring I noticed an odd leafed plant in my north berm and looking at its leaf shape and color concluded that indeed, one of the ***S. elata*** seeds (he'd given me quite alot) had found a choice location and apparently undetected by a patch work of other plants had soldiered on during the previous long hot summer. Apparently it needs one good full season for a young plant to create its associated underground root zone to bloom that following year. Flash forward to this year ...as March proceeded into April the plant I was watching started expanding and by the middle of April in spite of nippy frosts, a flower stalk began to emerge as shown to the left. A truly amazing display.

Discovered some smaller plants in my back rock garden. They are beginning to attain some size. These should hopefully bloom next year. Observing them in cold weather they appear to be winter growers.

Raising up and out over a menagerie of other wildflowers that grow in my north berm.



You can see how the *S. elata* was hidden within many other plants. I've reseeded this area with my remaining seeds and hope to create a small colony of this jewel.

Look down the planting, the *S. elata* creates a magnificent focal point. Obviously I need more!!